Pollution in Asansol Industrial Belt

*139 SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Asansol Industrial Belt is heavily polluted by industries as well as coal mining; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to control pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The steps taken by the Government to control pollution include the following:—

(i) Asansol-Durgapur area has been identified as one of the 19 critically polluted areas;

(ii) Comprehensive studies have been initiated for controlling pollution from the industries located in the region including mining operations, mine drainage and coal washeries;

(iii) Control technology for beehive coke oven emissions, coal briequette plants have been developed;

(iv) An intensive river basin study of the Damodar was carried out and hot spots have been identified.

(v) The Government of Bihar has initiated a programme of zero discharge from the industries which are discharging effluents into the Damodar River. Regular monitoring is being done and the industries have been directed to comply with the prescribed emission standards on a time-bound basis.

(vi) The Bihar State Pollution Control Boards has adopted a stringent effluent standard for oil and grease (5Mg/L as against National Minimal Standard of 10Mg/L) for the river Damodar;

(vii) The Board is vigorously advocating use of fly-ash in stowing the abandoned mines and for making of rural roads and bricks;

(viii) The Board, in collaboration with Dhanbad District Administration, has carried out intensive plantation in the project entitled "Green Dhanbad".

Destruction of Parassinikkadaru Snake Park in Kerala

*140. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the renowned Parassinikkadaru Snake Park in the northern Kerala district of Kannur has been destroyed by vandals; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent of destruction of the park and loss and what steps Government propose to take for its revival?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is reported that on 10.2.1993 some miscreants damaged the structures and destroyed some animals in the Parassinikkadaru Snake Park at Parassinikkadaru in Kannur District of Kerala. An interim report received from the Chief Wildlife Warden, Kerala, reveals that out of 163 animals in stock on the date of incident 92 died, 44 are reported missing/escaped and only 27 are in custody. He has also informed that the State Wildlife Advisory Board of Kerala has resolved to initiate action against the offenders under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. He has further informed that State Police has already

initiated action by registering the case and starting follow up action. The State Government has decided to conduct a joint enquiry by the Department of Forest and the Police Department, and the Central Government is sending Deputy Director (Wildlife Preservation) from Madras to assist the team for expediting the joint enquiry. Parassinikkadaru Snake Park is a non-government establishment.

Forest Policy to the Survival of Tribal Population

975. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the forest policy of Government has been posing threat to the survival of tribal population in Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Bihar;

(b) whether the rehabilitation policy of the Government needs change; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to amend the forest policy in order to protect the tribals, interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir. The National Forest Policy, 1988 recognises the symbiotic relationship between the tribal people and the forests and enjoins upon all agencies responsible for forest management to associate the tribal people in various forestry programmes.

(b) Relocation of tribals is resorted to only when it is inescapable. e.g. in respect of tribal villages in core areas of National Parks or those affected by submergence of areas under impounded waters of river valley projects. While undertaking such resettlements utmost care is taken to ensure that the tribals are provided with facilities which lead to their having improved living conditions without adversely affecting the cause of forest conservation.

(c) The National Forest Policy, 1988 has adequate provisions for safeguarding the customary rights and interests of the tribal people.

Pollution by O.N.G.C

976. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has polluted vast areas of Sibsagar district of Assam;

(b) whether the deep tube wells, domestic ponds and trees of the area are also affected by effluents from the water treatment plant of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission;

(c) whether this pollution is due to flouting of prescribed safety norms by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission contractors; and

(d) whether Government have conducted any enquiry regarding pollution caused by Oil and Natural Gas Commission, if so, what is the outcome of such enquiry and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Central Pollution Control Board has conducted studies on the pollution caused by oil drilling and collection systems in Assam. Standards for emission and effluent from drilling operations and guidelines for solid waste disposal have been recommended on the basis of the studies. The Assam Pollution Control Board has directed the ONGC to conform to the guidelines for the effluents generated during oil drilling operations. The Board regularly checks the operation of the pollution control systems.